



Discipleship Journal
HELPING YOU GROW IN CHRIST

Guidelines for Writers

Our Purpose

Discipleship Journal strives to help believers develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, and to provide practical help in understanding the Scriptures and applying them to daily life and ministry.

Content

Most of the articles we publish fall into one of three categories:

- **Teaching on a Scripture passage**, such as a study of an Old Testament character or a short section of an epistle, explaining the meaning and showing, through illustrations and examples (including your own experience), how to apply it to daily life
- **Teaching on a topic**, such as what Scripture says about forgiveness or materialism
- **How-to**, such as tips on deepening your devotional life or witnessing in the workplace

We **do not** publish testimonies, devotionals, personal profiles, purely theological material, book reviews, poetry, fiction, news articles, or articles about Christian organizations.

Word Count

Articles generally run from 1,200 to 2,800 words. (The word count varies according to the complexity of the article's thesis.)

Topics

Though part of each issue is devoted to a theme topic, there is no need to coordinate your article with our theme topics. We are always looking for feature articles, which can touch on any aspect of living as a disciple of Christ. Recent issues have dealt with subjects such as rekindling passion for God, prayer, developing a gentle spirit, personal discipling, dealing with stress, and principles for reaching unbelieving friends.

We'd like to see more articles that (1) apply biblical principles to everyday issues or relationships, (2) equip readers for personal ministry such as evangelism, serving, or discipling, (3) show how to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus, (4) focus on an aspect of God's character, or (5) show how to grow in an area of Christian character.

Our Readers

Be sure to consider our audience as you choose a topic and approach:

- Two thirds are women.* Median age is 47.
- Close to half lead a small-group Bible study or meet individually with younger Christians to help them grow.
- Most are professionals with at least some college education. However, they are not pastors or in full-time ministry.
- They describe themselves as maturing Christians rather than as new believers.
- Many consider busyness the greatest obstacle to their spiritual growth.
- Nearly all have regular personal devotions.

**However, we are not a women's magazine. Make sure your approach and topic are appropriate for both men and women.*

Keys for Successful Articles

- **Derive your main principles from a thorough study of Scripture.** You should include some personal experience, but this should not form the basis of your article.
- **Illustrate each principle.** Use analogies, examples, and illustrations to aid the reader.
- **Show how to put each principle into practice.** Show the reader what applying this principle would look like in everyday life.
- **Be vulnerable.** Show the reader that you have wrestled with the subject matter in your own life. Write from the perspective of a fellow pilgrim, not someone who has "arrived."
- **Write well.** Though our articles "teach," they should be well-crafted and engaging—not preachy or didactic.

How to Submit a Query

Due to an increasing volume of submissions, **we can no longer accept unsolicited manuscripts**. Instead, send a query letter. Query letters should include

- (1) the working title,
 - (2) a short statement of purpose or the article's thesis (be sure this includes a clear benefit to the reader),
 - (3) a tentative outline of your main points (include the scripture you will use and how you will incorporate your personal experience with the topic),
 - (4) some indication of the style and approach you plan to use,
 - (5) the prospective word count, and
 - (6) a short description of your qualifications to write the article.
- Before you submit a query, study several recent issues of *Discipleship Journal*. Look at the types of articles we publish, common writing styles, and the way our writers approach their topics. For samples, visit our archives at www.discipleshipjournal.com or mail a request (see below).
 - Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) with all query letters. If possible, include one or two samples of your published work. Queries may also be submitted by email. **We do not** accept phone queries or simultaneous queries.
 - Queries may be mailed or emailed to Connie Willems, Editor, at the address below.
 - Response time is usually within four to six weeks. Feel free to drop us a note if you haven't heard from us after two months; some manuscripts do get lost in the mail. If you receive a positive response to your query, you will be invited to send your article on speculation.

If Your Query Is Accepted (do not send your manuscript unless invited to do so)

- All articles should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the paper only. On the first page, type your name, address, phone number, and email address in the upper left corner. At top right, indicate an approximate word count and rights offered (first or reprint). Please use page numbers.
- We prefer Bible quotes from the New International Version. If quoting from a version other than the NIV, indicate which version is being quoted with each reference.
- Again, response time is four to six weeks. Articles will not be returned unless requested (include a SASE with appropriate postage).

Payment

Payment is made upon acceptance. The current rate is 25 cents per word for first rights plus an additional 10 percent for limited electronic rights.

Reprints

Reprints from noncompeting publications are acceptable but must be queried in the same form as other articles. In your query letter, indicate the publication in which the article originally appeared and the date of publication. Reprints are paid at five cents per word.

Samples

To obtain a sample copy of *Discipleship Journal*, send a manila envelope with \$2.64 in postage to the address below.

Department Guidelines

Separate guidelines are available for the DJ Plus department. To request these guidelines, send a SASE to the address below, or download them from www.discipleshipjournal.com.